

# ABSOLUTE BATMAN™



**ALL IN**

15+  
TEEN+

12



SNYDER  
DRAGOTTA  
MARTIN

DRAGOTTA  
JUNE



**BATMAN VS. THE BAT-FAMILY!**

# BATMAN

## HUSH

**#162**

**CHAPTER FIVE**

**DEAD OR ALIVE**

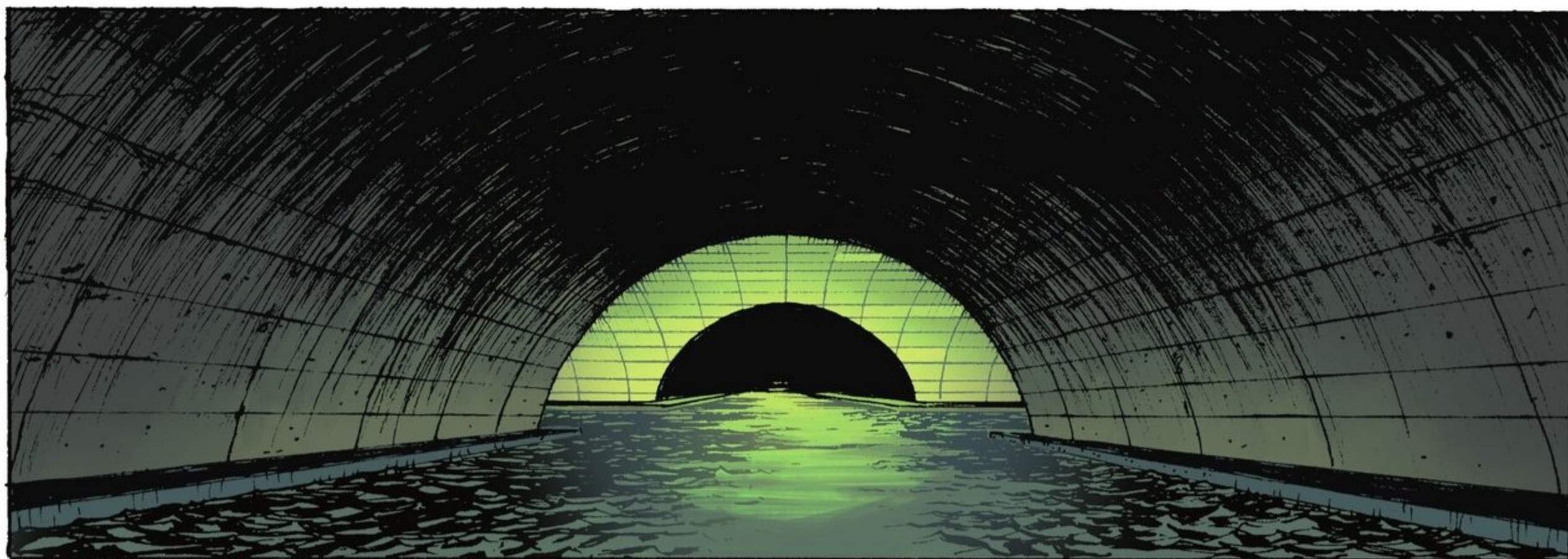
**WRITTEN BY  
JEPH LOEB**

**ART AND COVER BY  
JIM LEE, SCOTT WILLIAMS  
& ALEX SINCLAIR**



**ALL IN  
OCTOBER**

















# ABOMINATION

## PART FOUR

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COLORIST LETTERER

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EXECUTIVE EDITOR

BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE WITH BILL FINGER





SO, THE FIRST MONTH IS DUE ON SIGNING, AND THEN, AS LONG AS THE DETAILS CHECK OUT, YOU KIDS ARE GOOD TO GO!



OH, JUST A REMINDER, THOUGH. NO PETS AT ALL. THAT INCLUDES CATS.

FILTHY ANIMALS. WE WOULDN'T DREAM OF--

WE'LL TAKE IT.

WONDERFUL. I'LL GIVE YOU A MOMENT TO *ENVISION*.



PSST. WANT TO KNOW WHAT *I'M* ENVISIONING...?

STOP. SOMETHING'S BOTHERING YOU.

TALK, WAYNE.



...IT'S WAYLON. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO, SE.



DID YOU TELL HIM THE TRUTH?

HE'S NOT GOING TO LISTEN. I *KNOW* HIM. HE REALLY BELIEVES HE CAN *WIN*.



THEN... HELP HIM WIN.

HOW?



SAME WAY WE GOT THIS SPOT. IF THE RULES AREN'T FAIR...



...STOP PLAYING BY THEM.





✂GASP!✂

EASY,  
EASY.

UNH...  
HOW LONG  
HAVE I BEEN  
OUT?

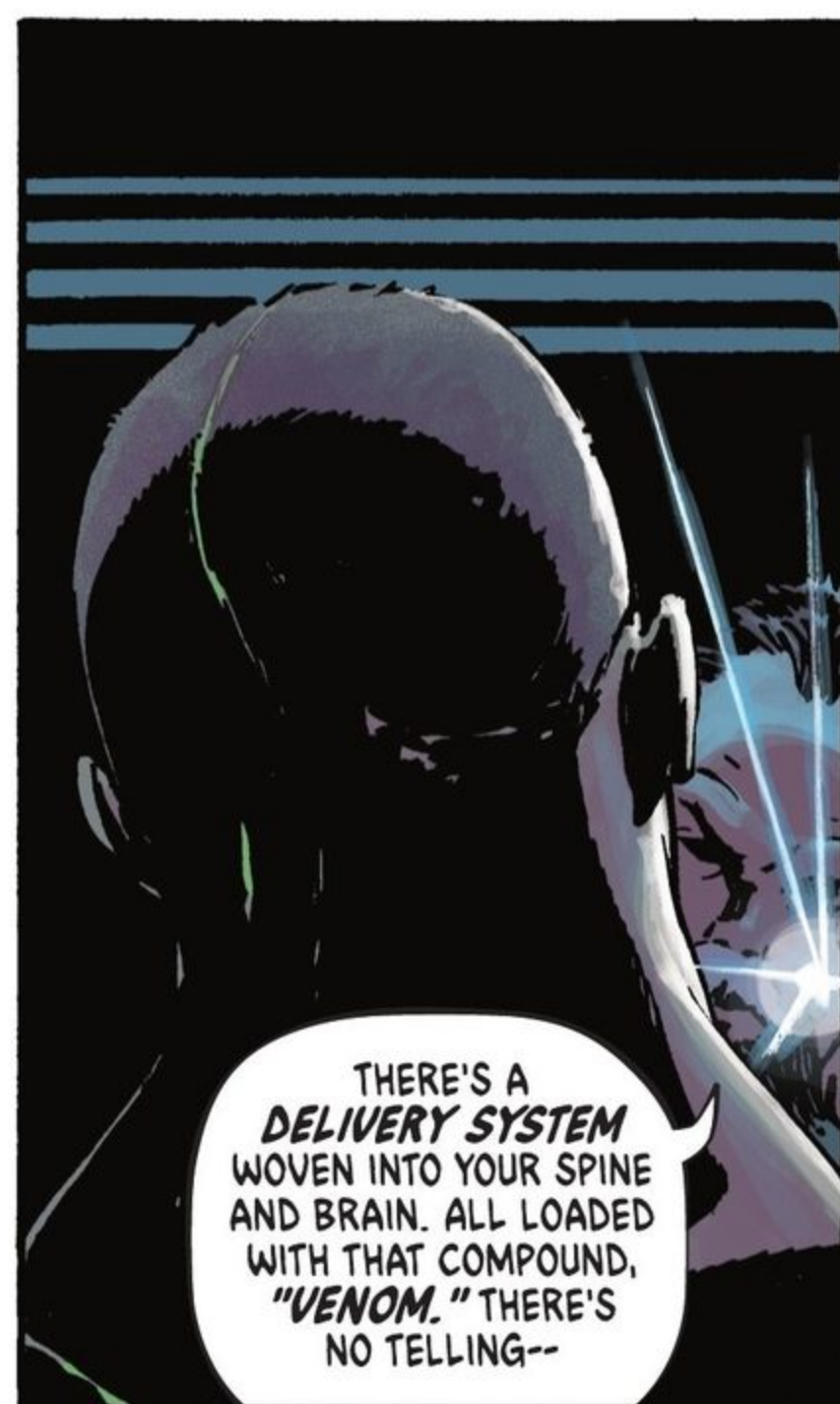


IT'S BEEN TWENTY DAYS SINCE I  
FOUND YOU COLLAPSED ON THE  
FLOOR OF THIS PLACE.



TWENTY  
@#\$%  
DAYS?!

YES. AND  
YOU NEED A HELL OF  
A LOT MORE. THE THINGS  
THEY DID TO YOUR BODY...  
I'M NOT SURE YOU FULLY  
COMPREHEND.



THERE'S A  
**DELIVERY SYSTEM**  
WOVEN INTO YOUR SPINE  
AND BRAIN. ALL LOADED  
WITH THAT COMPOUND,  
**"VENOM."** THERE'S  
NO TELLING--



I'M FINE,  
PENNYWORTH.

NO,  
KID.

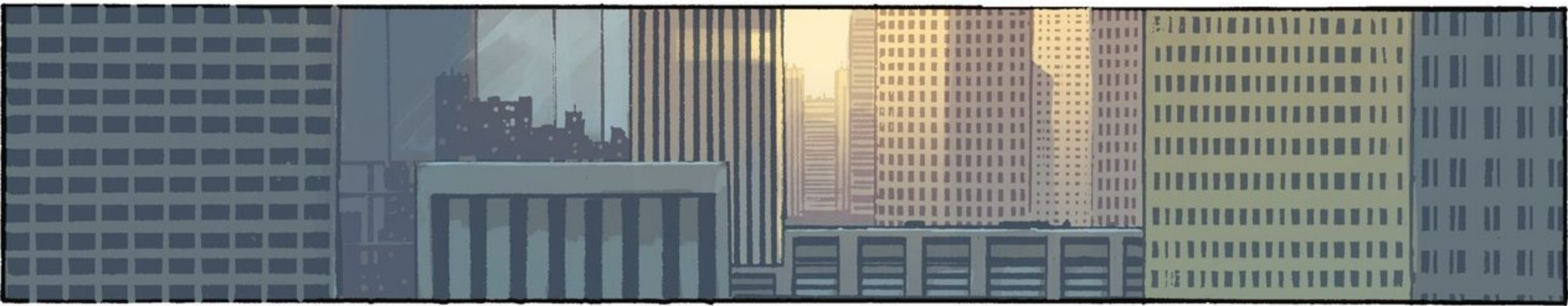


YOU NEED TO HEAR THIS. WHAT  
YOU **DID**...THINGS HAVE **CHANGED**  
NOW. YOU'RE IN IT, YOU  
UNDERSTAND?



I GET  
IT. NOW I'M  
GOING TO NEED  
YOU TO  
MOVE.









BRUCE?!



OH, THANK GOD!



MOM...  
I'M SO SORRY, I--  
STOP.  
JUST...  
JUST LET ME  
HOLD YOU FOR  
A WHILE.



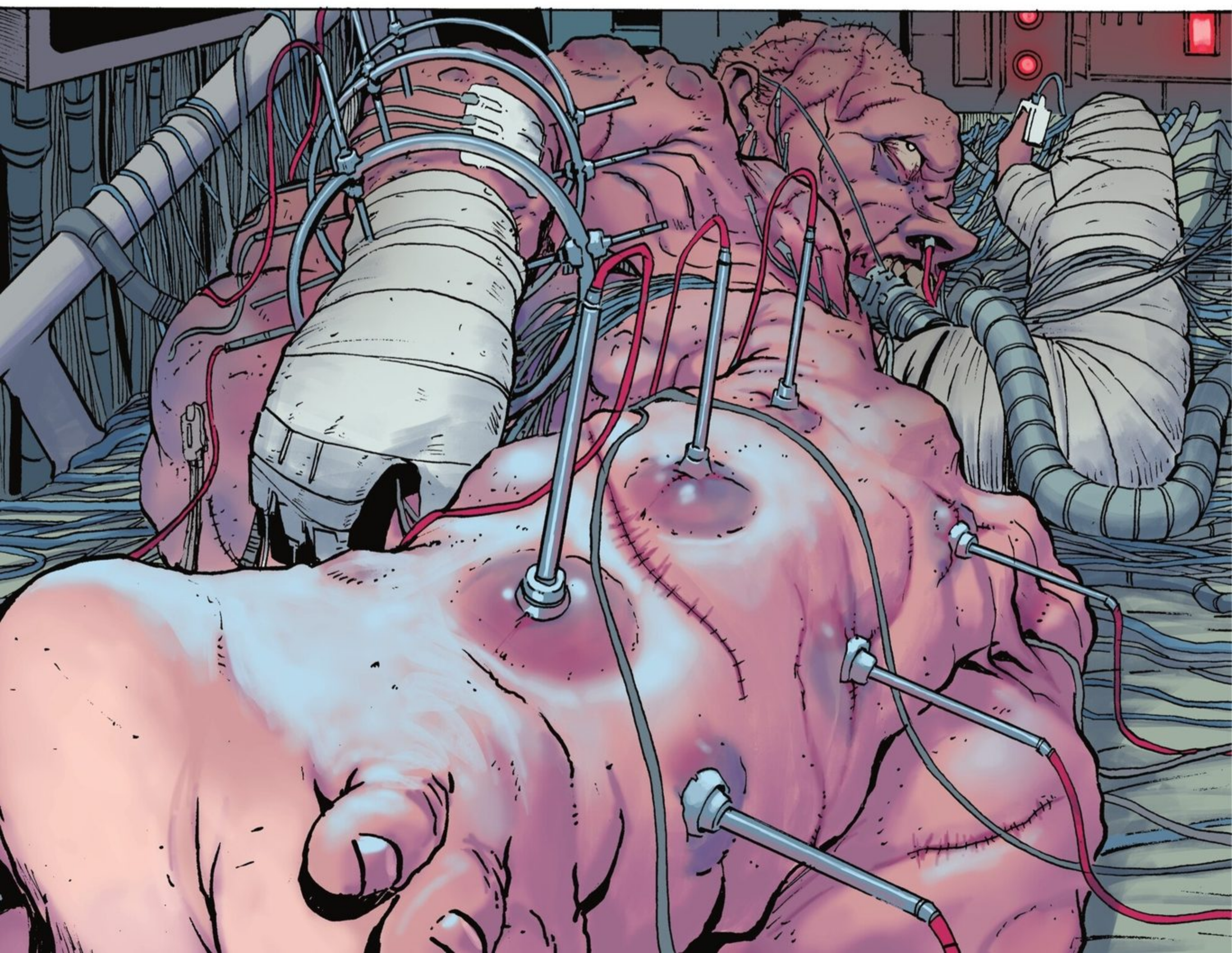
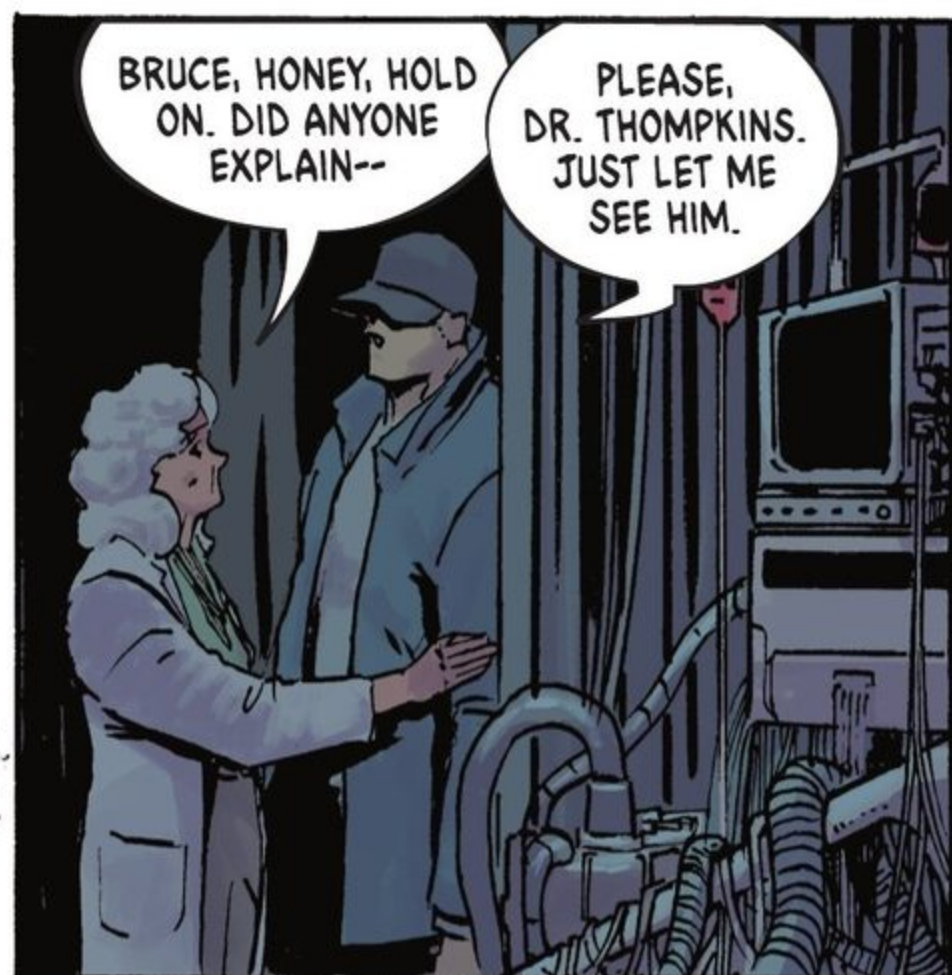
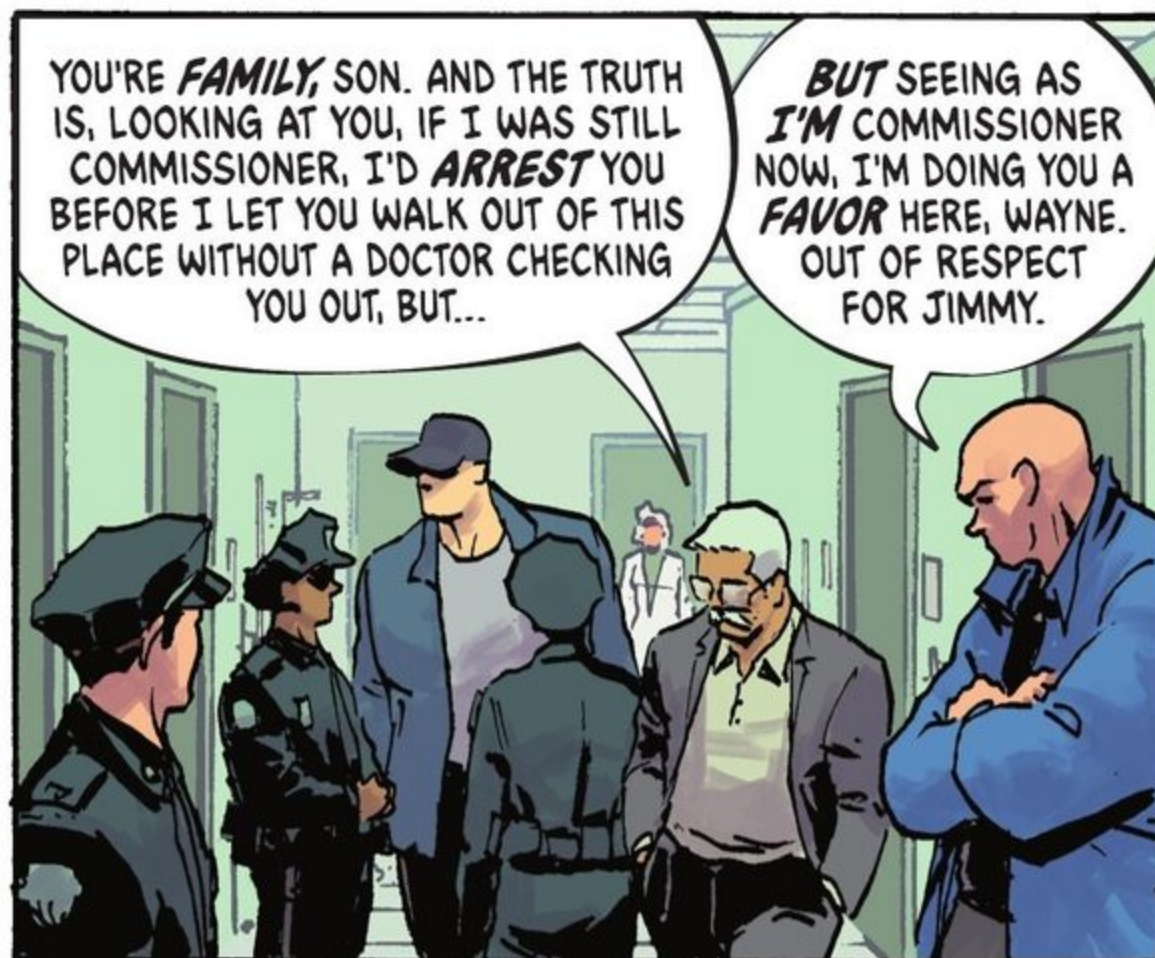
I WAS SO SCARED OF  
GETTING THAT **PHONE CALL**  
AGAIN. EVERY TIME IT  
RANG...AND THEN WITH  
WHAT HAPPENED TO  
**OZZIE**, AND--

HOLD  
ON.



OZZIE?

























SO NO, BRUCE. HE DIDN'T HURT ME AT ALL.

HE HELPED ME! HE WAS **CHALLENGING** ME. MAYBE HE WAS CHALLENGING **ALL** OF US. TO BECOME **MORE**, BECOME WHAT WE'RE MEANT TO BE...



EDDIE, WE NEED TO GET YOU TO A HOSPITAL. YOU--



AAAGH!



OOH... LOOKS LIKE HE CHALLENGED YOU TOO, BRUCE!



SO RIDDLE ME THIS... WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?









STAND DOWN, NOW.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "STAND DOWN"?!

I MEAN IT'S OFF. ALL OF IT.



NOTHING'S OFF. YOU DON'T GET TO TELL THE RED HOOD GANG WHAT'S--



WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?



YOU WERE RIGHT. WHEN THE BLACK MASK OFFERED THAT *DEAL*, I DIDN'T EVEN CONSIDER IT. NOT REALLY. I JUST... I DIDN'T SEE.



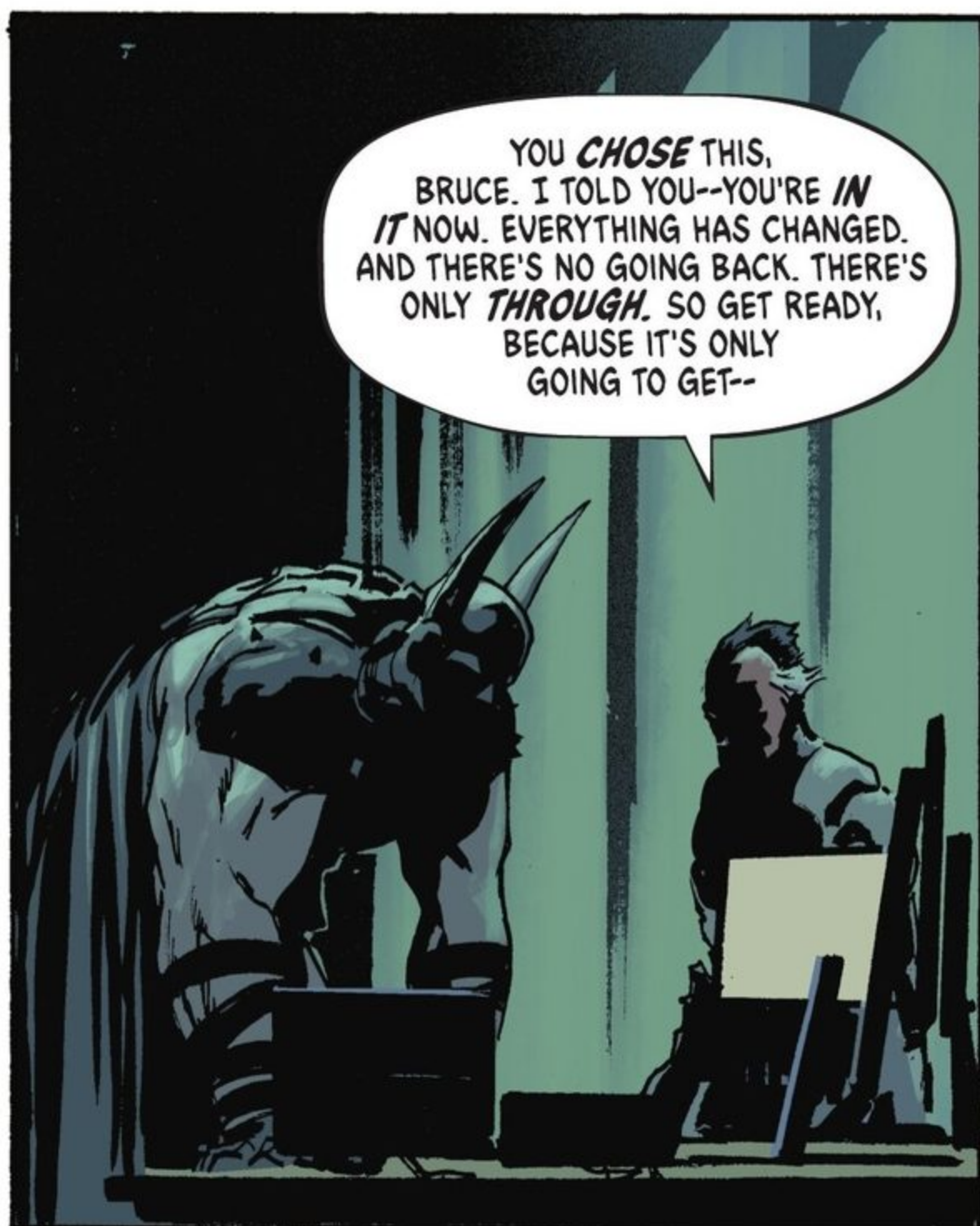
SO THAT'S IT, KID? YOU CLOSING DOWN OPERATIONS?



HE *BROKE* THEM, PENNYWORTH! MY FRIENDS.



THAT'S RIGHT, HE DID. THE QUESTION IS, ARE YOU GOING TO LET HIM BREAK *YOU*?



YOU *CHOSE* THIS, BRUCE. I TOLD YOU--YOU'RE *IN IT* NOW. EVERYTHING HAS CHANGED. AND THERE'S NO GOING BACK. THERE'S ONLY *THROUGH*. SO GET READY, BECAUSE IT'S ONLY GOING TO GET--



SOMEONE'S BREACHED THE HATCH.



HE'S HERE... BANE.



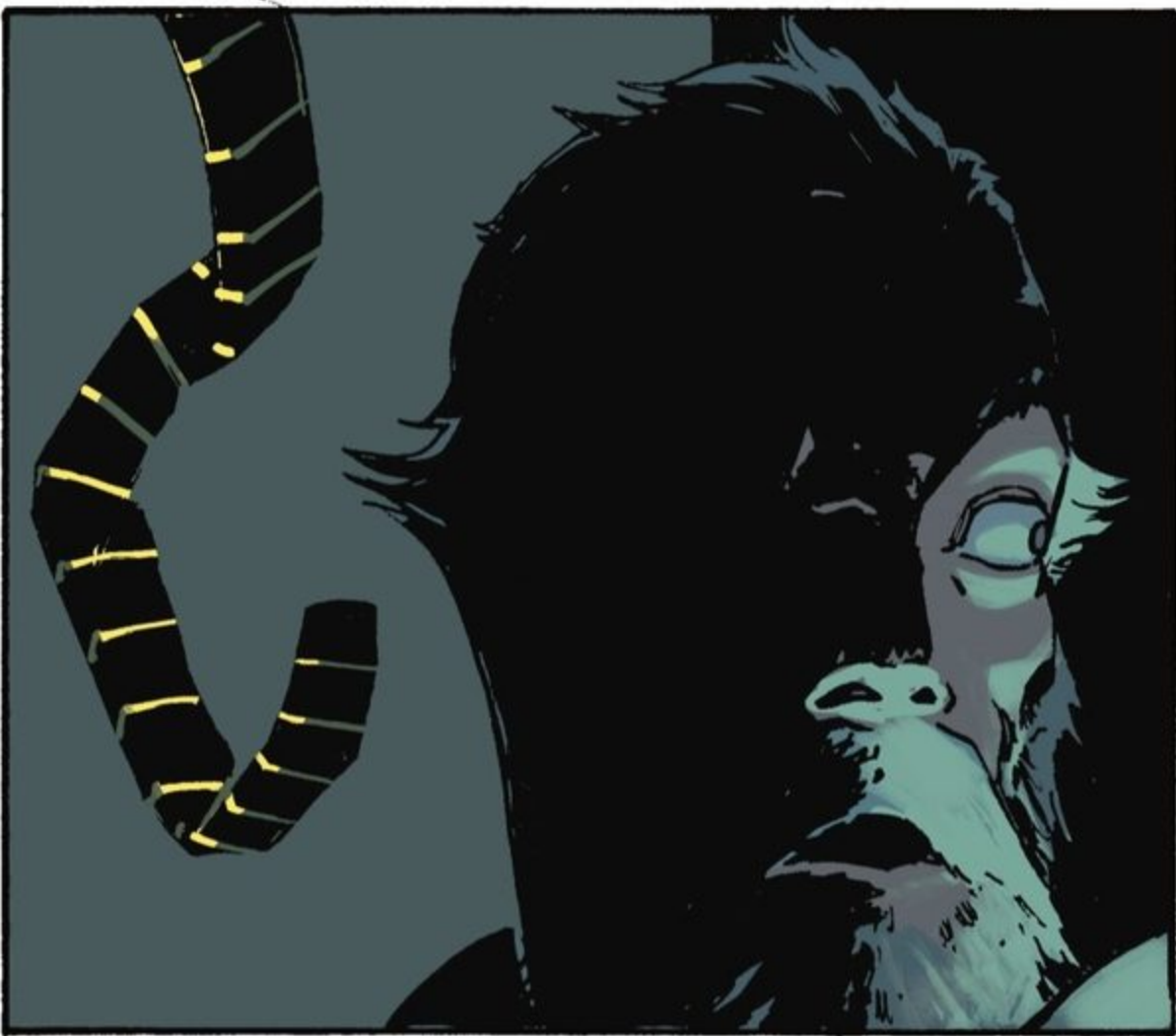
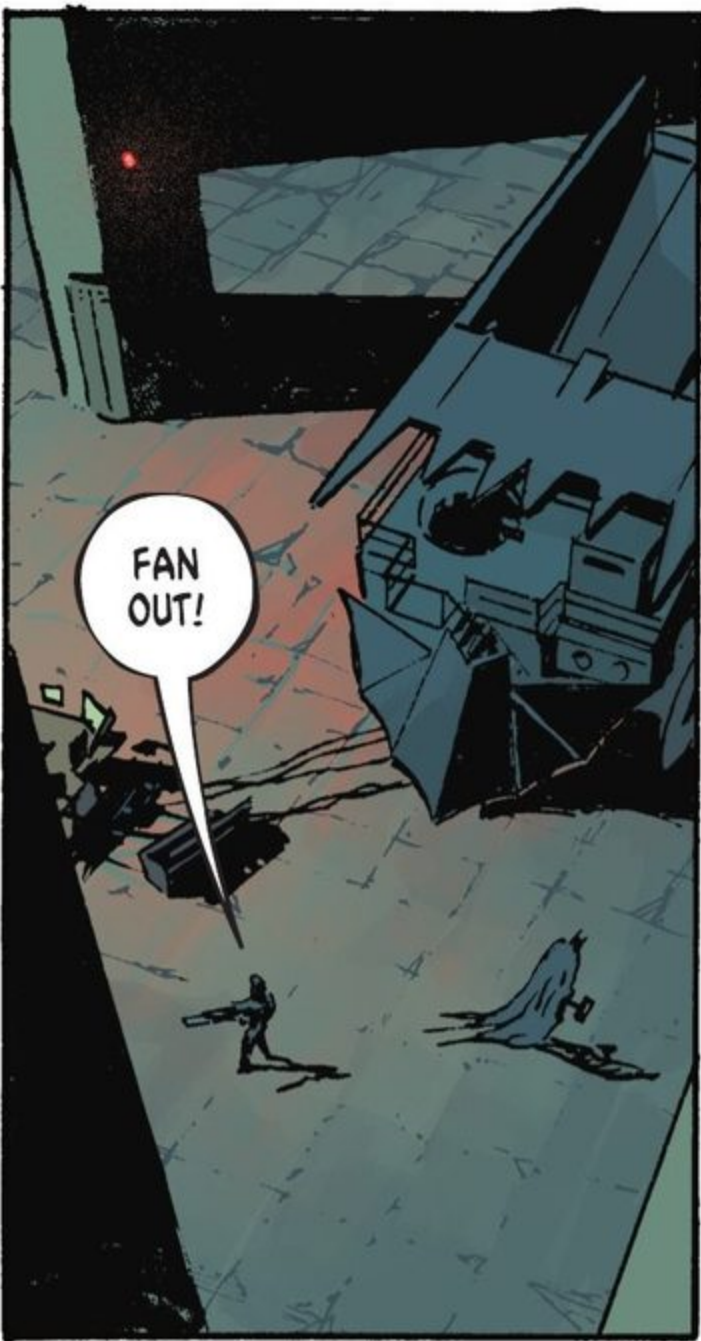
ALL RIGHT. HE LOVES *WAR* SO MUCH...



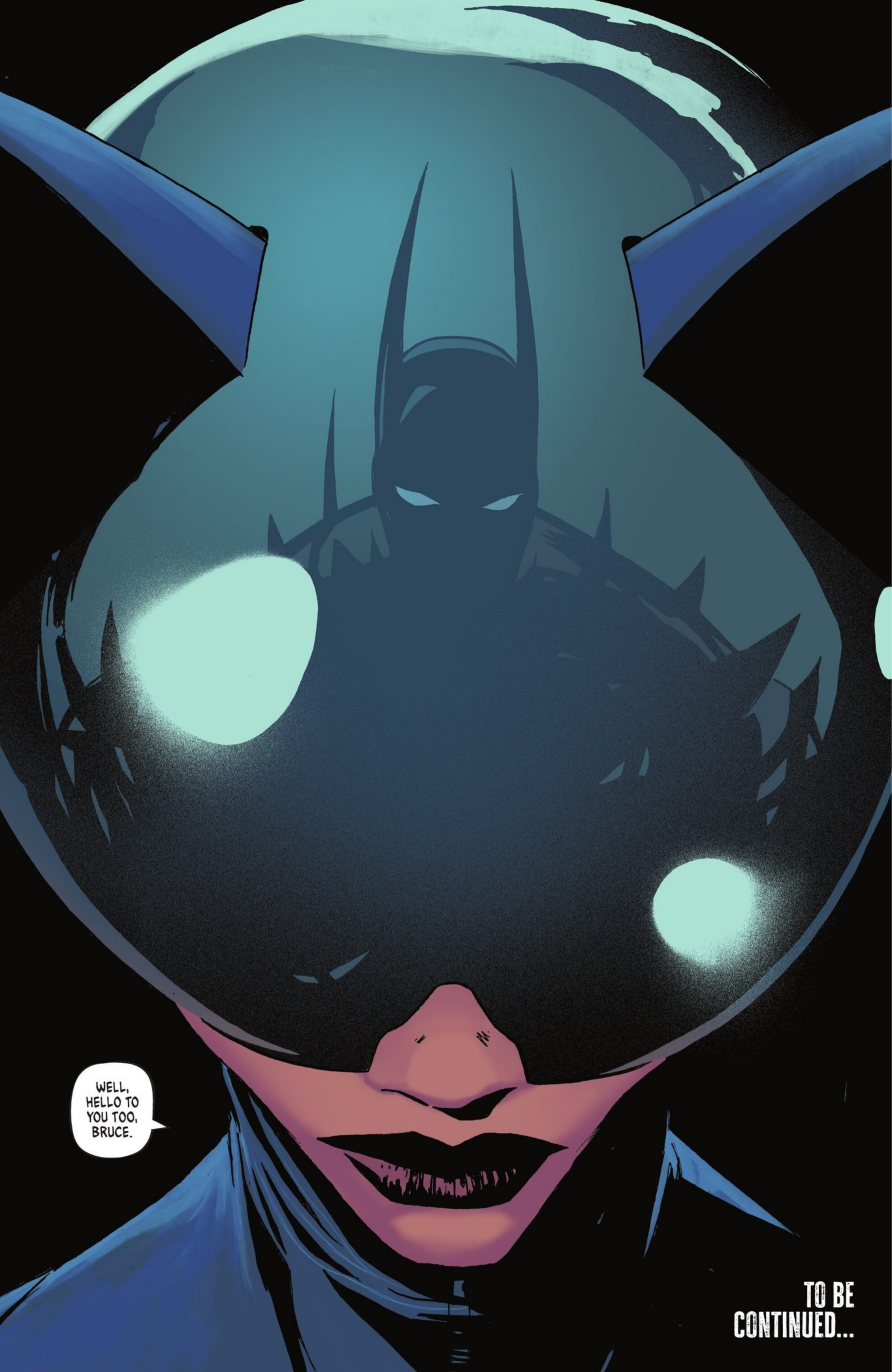
...LET'S  
BLOODY *GIVE* IT  
TO HIM.











WELL,  
HELLO TO  
YOU TOO,  
BRUCE.

TO BE  
CONTINUED...





WRITER  
SCOTT SNYDER  
ARTIST  
JAVI FERNÁNDEZ  
COLORIST  
ALEJANDRO SÁNCHEZ  
LETTERER  
HASSAN OTSMANE-ELHAOU

HERE IN THE DARK,  
IN THE MOMENTS  
BEFORE IT BEGINS.

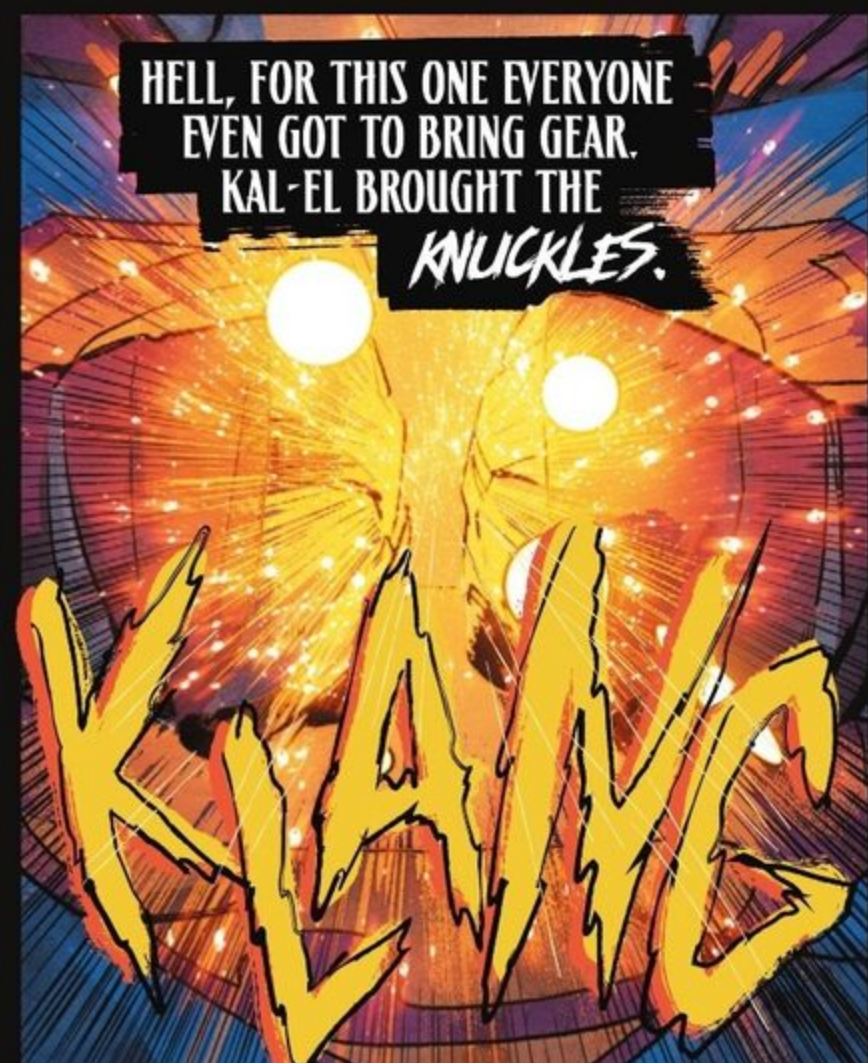
HE TELLS HIMSELF  
IT'S JUST ANOTHER  
*FIGHT*—



A BRAWL LIKE  
*COUNTLESS*  
ONES BEFORE.



HELL, FOR THIS ONE EVERYONE  
EVEN GOT TO BRING GEAR.  
KAL-EL BROUGHT THE  
*KNUCKLES*.



HE FORGED THEM IN  
THE FORTRESS YEARS  
AGO, AFTER RETURNING  
FROM THE DEAD.



*KNUCKLES* WITH  
MINIATURE SUNS  
RAGING INSIDE, ANGRY  
SUNS TAKEN FROM  
EMPTY UNIVERSES...

HE THOUGHT ABOUT CALLING  
THEM "DAWNSDAY"  
KNUCKLES, BUT LOIS SHUT  
THAT DOWN FAST.

EVEN SO...  
WITH THEM HE'S  
STRONGER,  
FASTER,  
READY TO  
*THROW DOWN*.

HE'S FOUGHT  
TOUGHER FIGHTS  
THAN THIS.  
FOUGHT IN OTHER  
DIMENSIONS, OTHER  
UNIVERSES, FOUGHT  
GODS, TITANS...



...WHAT'S ONE  
MORE FIGHT?

AND THEN THE  
*DOORS OPEN*—



WHAT  
THE--





TWO SPACES. ONE, TWO.

Whomp, whomp. GO BACK A ROW, CLARK. GREEN IS KRYPTONITE.

KRYPTONITE, DIANA?

Seriously?

I DIDN'T MAKE THE RULES!

Oh, look, "BATMOBILE BOOST." GO AHEAD THREE SPACES. NICE!



WHO MADE THIS THING? GIVE ME THE BOX.

"Malone Entert---" BRUCE...

Never heard of it. Just play the game.



I WARNED YOU... CLARK DOESN'T LIKE A GAME UNLESS NO ONE HAS TO LOSE.

Aw, LOSING BUILDS CHARACTER.



SO DOES WINNING.



Well, I FOR ONE AM GLAD YOU INVITED US. THANKS, LOIS.

OF COURSE. I JUST THOUGHT, YOU NEVER GET TO SPEND TIME TOGETHER. I MEAN, WHEN YOU'RE NOT SAVING THE WORLD.

THANKS, LO. I'M GLAD, TOO.

ME TOO.

NICE, BATPLANE POWER CARD. MOVE UP... NINE SPACES. YOUR ROLL, CLARK.





IT'S ALL RIGHT. WHY DON'T WE EAT?

FOOD'S STILL COOKING. NICE TRY, THOUGH.

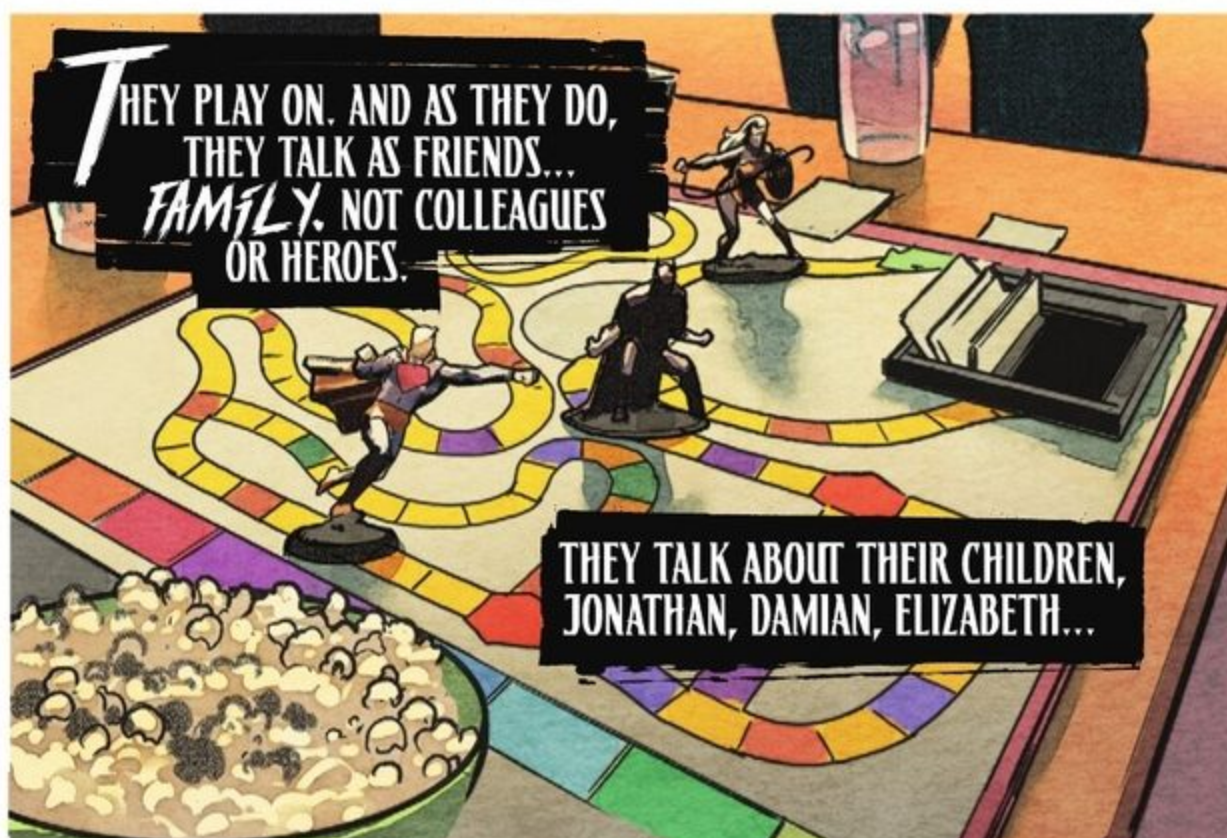
YOU JUST NEED A STRATEGY, CLARK. THE WHOLE GAME IS STRATEGY.



OR YOU COULD STOP ARGUING AND PLAY HARD. WATCH AND LEARN...

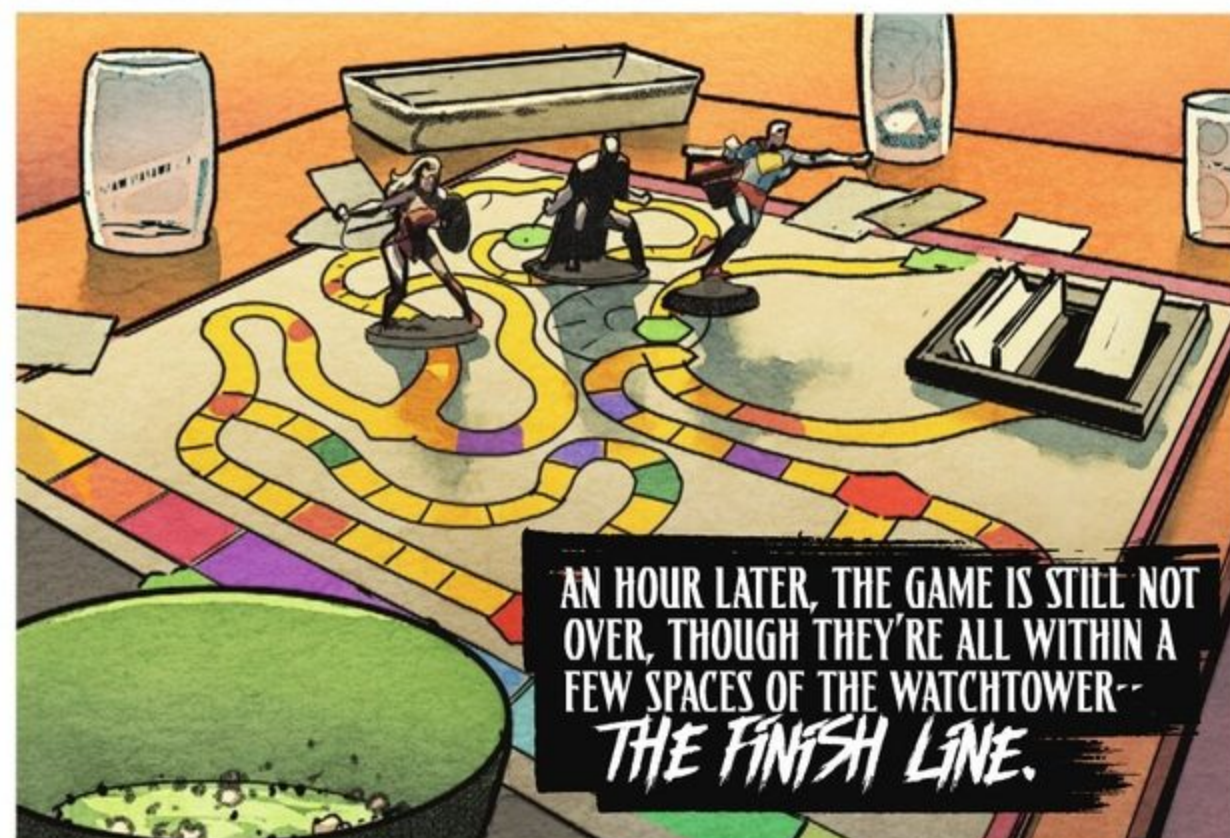
**TWELVE!**

MOVE UP ONE ROW.



THEY PLAY ON. AND AS THEY DO, THEY TALK AS FRIENDS... **FAMILY**. NOT COLLEAGUES OR HEROES.

THEY TALK ABOUT THEIR CHILDREN, JONATHAN, DAMIAN, ELIZABETH...



AN HOUR LATER, THE GAME IS STILL NOT OVER, THOUGH THEY'RE ALL WITHIN A FEW SPACES OF THE WATCHTOWER - **THE FINISH LINE.**



**D**IANA IS ABOUT TO ROLL THE WINNING ROLL WHEN LOIS SAYS IT...

GUYS, WHY IS IT SO BRIGHT OUT?



Dear god...

**W**HAT CLARK SEES OUT THE WINDOW MAKES HIS BLOOD RUN COLD.



**DARKSEID.**

THE HEROES' OLDEST  
AND GREATEST FOE.  
MAYBE THE MOST FAMILIAR  
ENEMY THEY HAVE.

BUT *THIS* DARKSEID HAS  
BECOME SOMETHING ELSE.  
SOMETHING MORE.

HE ISN'T JUST BIGGER,  
*STRONGER...*  
HE'S *EVERYTHING*.  
A UNIVERSE OF POWER  
GIVEN FORM.

EVERYWHERE HE LOOKS,  
THE CITY BECOMES HIS.  
NO, CLARK THINKS, NOT *HIS*...  
IT BECOMES *HIM*.  
CLARK CAN *SEE* IT HAPPENING.

EVERY PARTICLE,  
EVERY MOLECULE,  
EVERY *ATOM* IS OF  
*DARKSEID*.

AS THEY CHARGE HIM, CLARK—  
TELLS HIMSELF THEY'VE DONE THIS  
BEFORE. THEY'VE FOUGHT UXAS  
DOZENS OF TIMES AND *WON*...

...THIS FIGHT IS  
LIKE *NOTHING*  
THEY'VE FACED.  
*EVER...*

TO BE CONTINUED IN **K&D** #1 ON SALE IN OCTOBER!

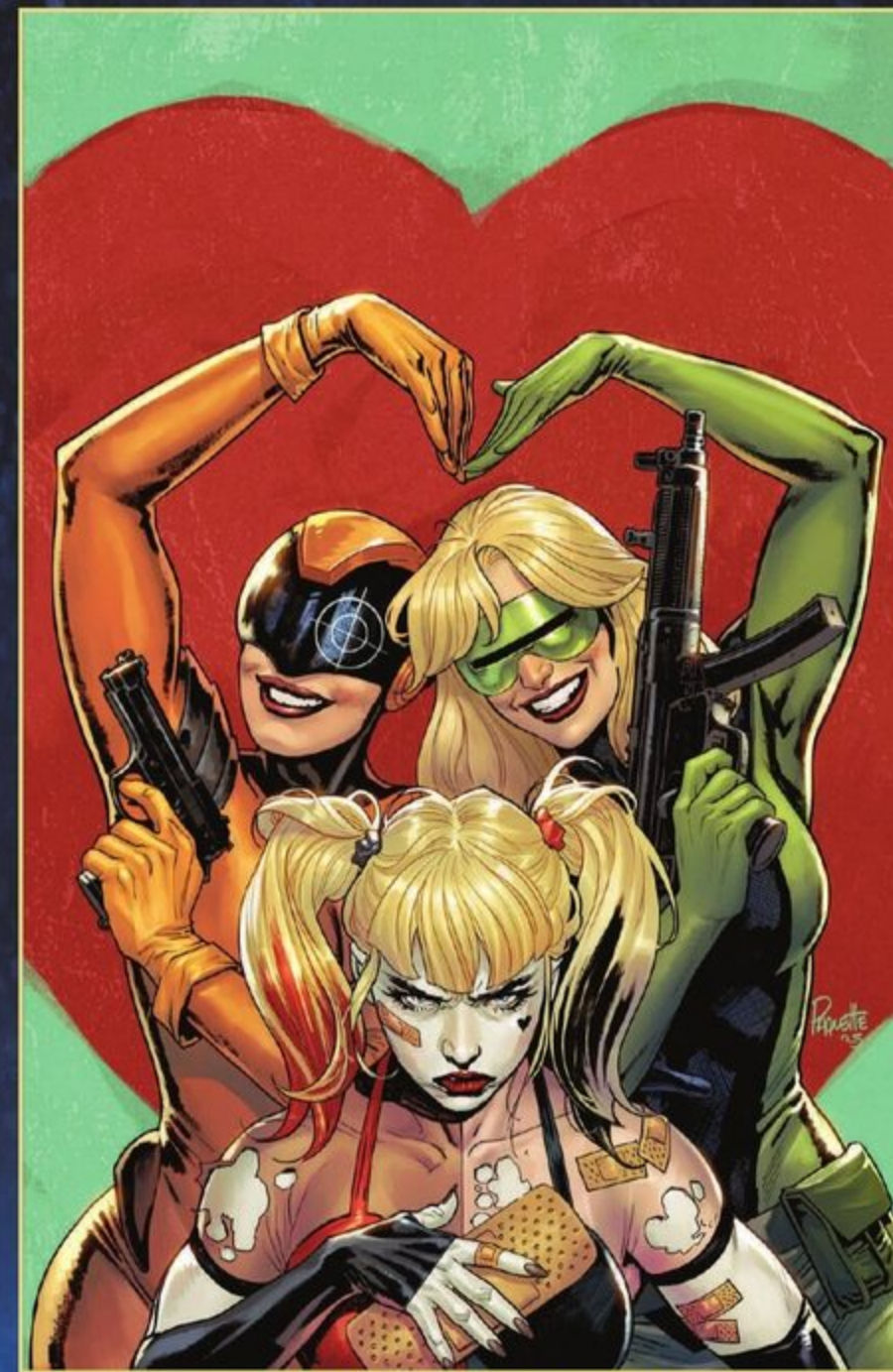




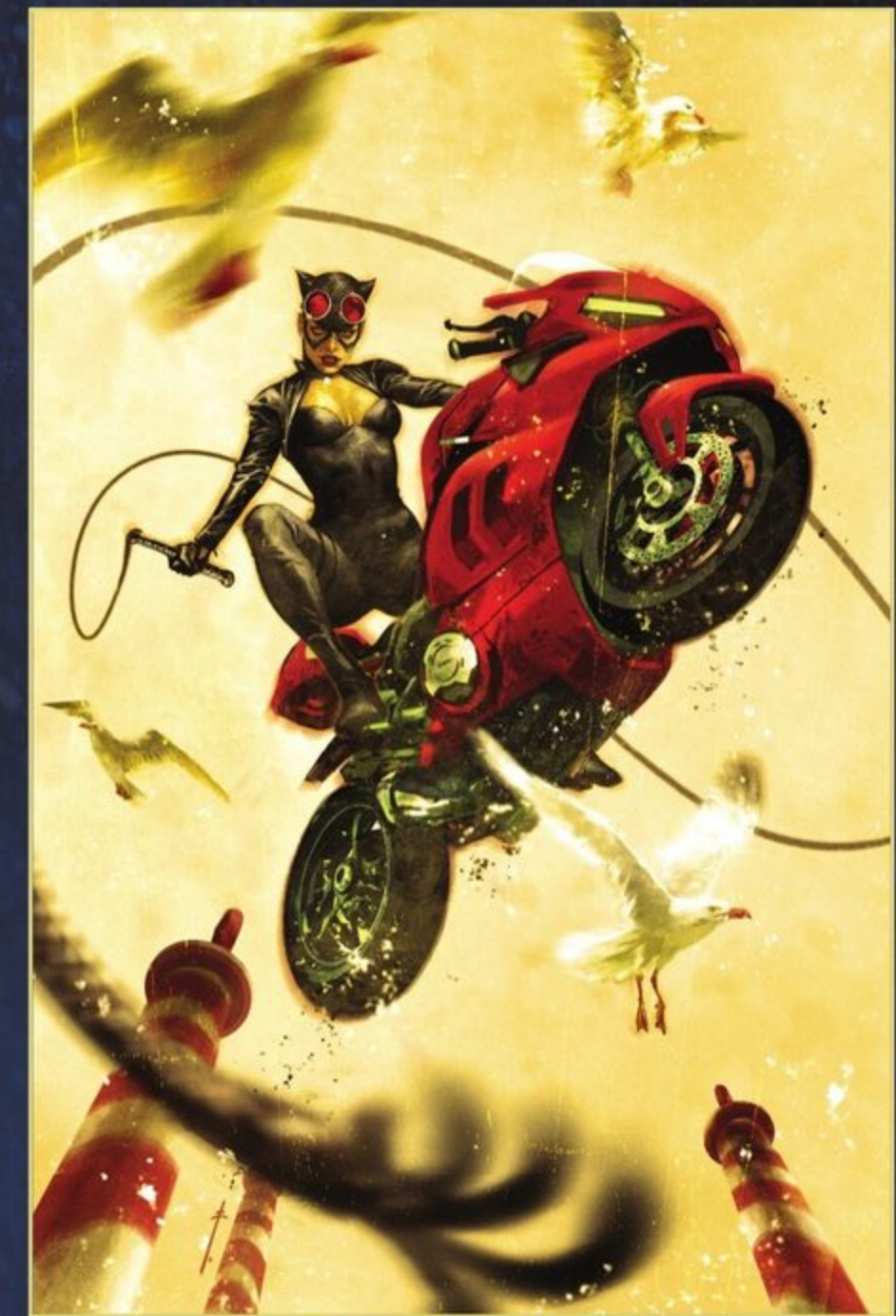
DETECTIVE COMICS #1101



RED HOOD #1



HARLEY QUINN #54



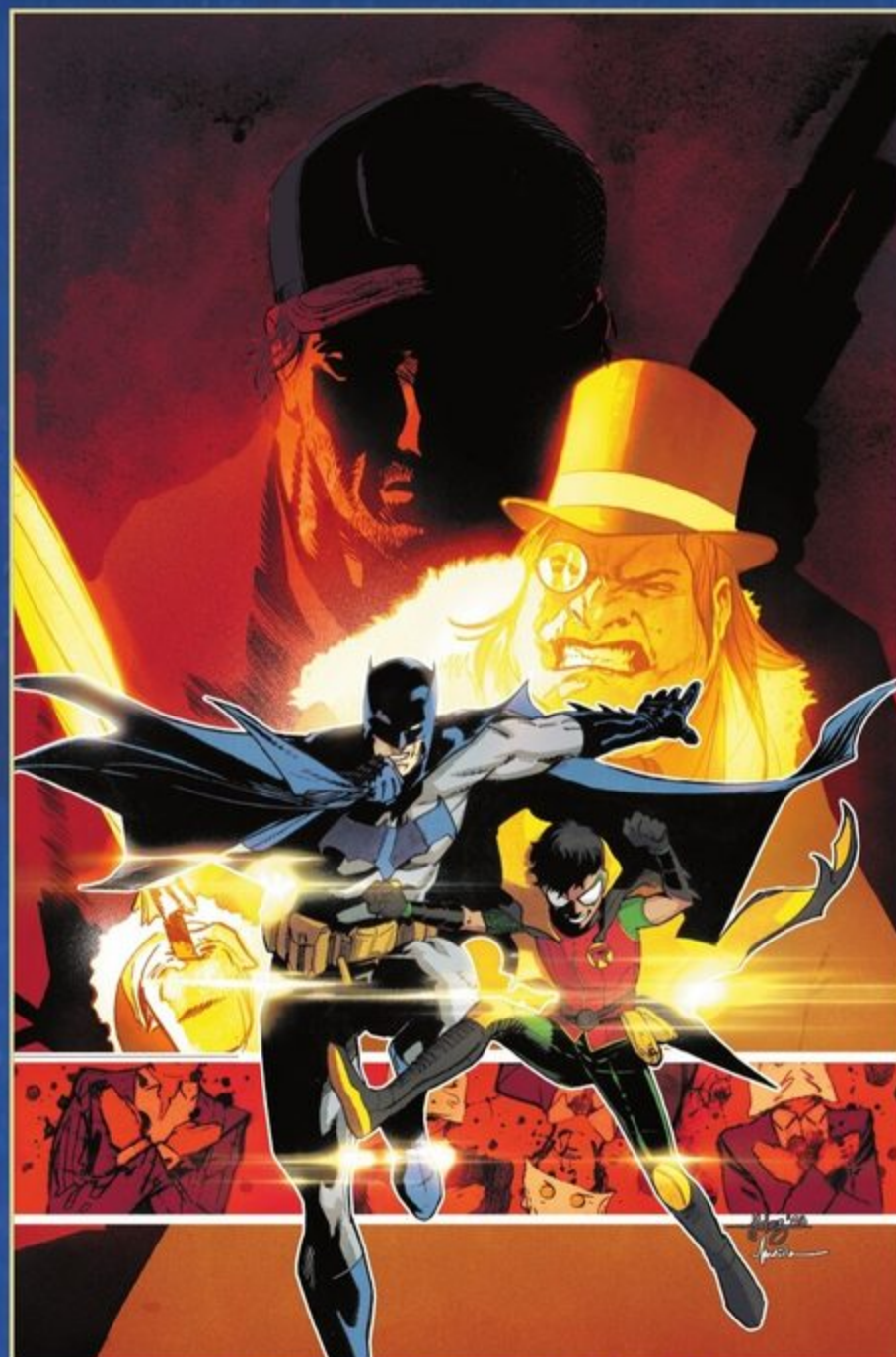
CATWOMAN #79

**THIS SEPTEMBER, FALL INTO NEW STORY**

**ARCS ACROSS GOTHAM—AND BEYOND!**



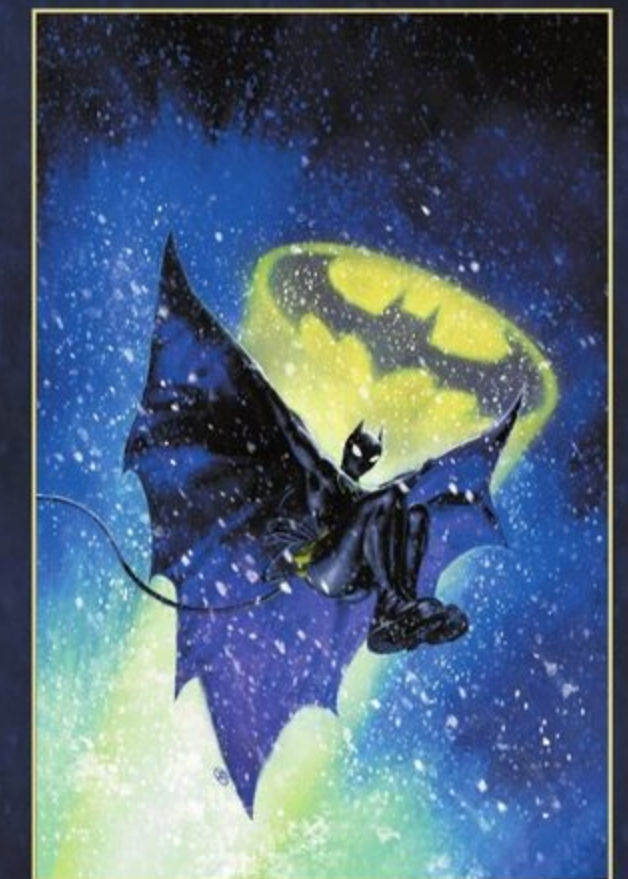
POISON IVY #36



BATMAN AND ROBIN #25



NIGHTWING #130



BATGIRL #12

(On sale in October)





# C.O.R.T. CHILDREN OF THE ROUND TABLE

## INTERVIEW WITH TOM TAYLOR

Superstar writer Tom Taylor is beloved by DC fans for his work on *Detective Comics*, *Nightwing*, *DCeased*, and much more—and starting this September, he and artist Daniele Di Nicuolo introduce a new cast of characters outside of the DC Universe in the six-issue all-ages series *C.O.R.T.: Children of the Round Table*. In *C.O.R.T.*, frequent collaborators Taylor and Di Nicuolo put their own contemporary spin on Arthurian lore as ancient weapons meet children of destiny.

### Tom, what makes now the right time for this story?

We live in a time when it feels like too many adults in charge aren't working for future generations. For me, this is the perfect time for stories where the next generations step up and take down tyrants to make a better world...with kindness, and powers, and giant swords.



### Can you tease the threat the Children of the Round Table face in this story?

There is a tyrant rising, with access to a dark magical power tied to long ago. Our kids have been chosen to be a new force for good. Arthur, Lancelot, and the original Knights of the Round Table are bonded to the weapons they once wielded. And their spirits now speak (and argue) and train this next generation of knights to save the world.



### What's the importance for you of telling all-ages stories in the monthly-comics format?

I came to comics as a kid and I want more kids reading comics. I want to create books that comics shops can hand to kids and say, "Here. Have fun. And welcome to the greatest storytelling medium on the planet." I want adults to buy comics for kids and for kids to be excited to read them. I want uncles and aunties and parents and grandparents to share their love of comics.

But I also want to create stories that are truly engaging for everyone, stories that will shock and entertain adults and kids alike.

### Similarly, what do you see as the significance of telling this original story at DC?

Creating a new group of heroes, with powers and villains and a vast lore, at one of the greatest publishers to ever do all that, is incredibly exciting. This is the home of the Justice League. This is the home of the Teen Titans. Now DC is the home of the Children of the Round Table.

I hope this series can run a lot longer than its first six issues (which will depend on how many people embrace it, of course) because I'd love to see these young heroes grow in future stories. I'd love for each arc to be another year and for readers to grow up along with our cast.

### Have to ask—if you had a talking weapon, what kind of weapon (and personality) would you want?

Look. Swords are just cool. Talking swords are even cooler. That's just basic math.



**DON'T MISS  
C.O.R.T.: CHILDREN OF  
THE ROUND TABLE #1  
ON SALE MONTHLY!**

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